

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **December 14, 2004** the Examiner reviewed claims 1-27. Claims 1-10 and 20-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Blandy et al (USPN 5,940,618, hereinafter "Blandy"). Claims 13-19 were allowed. Claims 11-12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-10 and 20-27 were rejected as being anticipated by Blandy.


Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 20 to include allowable limitations from dependent claims 9, 10, and 12. Dependent claims 9, 10, and 12 have been canceled without prejudice. Dependent claim 11 has been amended to correct antecedent basis. Claims 21-27 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 13-19 were previously allowed.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 13, and 20 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-8 and 11, which depend upon claim 1, and claims 14-19, which depend upon claim 13, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Edward J. Grundler
Registration No. 47,615

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Edward J. Grundler
PARK, VAUGHAN & FLEMING LLP
508 Second Street, Suite 201
Davis, CA 95616-4692
Tel: (530) 759-1663
FAX: (530) 759-1665